DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

VZCZCMAY785ILN735 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ ZYUW

MULT

ACTION

DIA:

DISTR

CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) J3:NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15) NMIC
- CMC WASHINGTON DC
CNO
- CSAF WASHINGTON DC
- CNO WASHINGTON DC
- CSA WASHINGTON DC
- C I A
- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
- WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
- NSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
(049)

40866

NOFORN

3061041 AR/uw
8049305

TRANSIT/021730Z/021849Z/001:19TOR3061841
DE RUESBAA #0549 3061800
ZNY ~~CCCCC~~
P R 021730Z NOV 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RULPAFA/24COMPW/IN HOWARD AFB CZ
RUEBARA/COMNAVINTCOM ALEX VA
RULYYGA/USCOMSOLANT
(b)(3):10 USC 424
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L/NOFORN~~ 0549 OCT 77

REC'D DS-4B 3 NOV '77

SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) OTHER - SOVIET VERSION OF FISHING BOAT CAPTURE
4. N/A
5. 771027
6. 771028
7. 771027, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. (b)(3):10 USC 424
9.
10.
11.

201

PAGE 1 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 00110001

49

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 19, 2018

12. (b)(3):10 USC 424
13.
14.

15. OIRC: ~~NO, NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT.~~

16. SUMMARY: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ SOVIET NAVAL ATTACHE TO ARGENTINA CLAIMS THAT CAPTAINS OF CAPTURED FISHING VESSELS HAVE PROOF THAT THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT AND ANCHORED WHEN CAPTURED BY THE ARGENTINE NAVY.

22. DETAILS: 1. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ DURING A DINNER AT THE HOME OF THE ECUADORIAN NAVAL ATTACHE, GIVEN FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ATTACHE ASSOCIATION, A DISCUSSION OF THE CAPTURE OF FISHING VESSELS WAS BEGUN BY THE HOST, THE SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE, COMMANDER VLADIMIR VASILENKO, A MEMBER OF THE CURRENT BOARD AND A PARTICIPANT AT THE DINNER, QUICKLY BECAME THE CENTER OF THE CONVERSATION. VASILENKO CLAIMED THAT ALL THE RECENTLY CAPTURED SOVIET FISHING VESSELS WERE AT ANCHOR, OUTSIDE THE TWO HUNDRED MILE ARGENTINE TERRITORIAL WATERS, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY ARGENTINE NAVAL VESSELS. ACCORDING TO VASILENKO, THE SOVIET SHIPS DID NOT ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE CAPTURE, AND DID NOT HEAD OUT TO SEA. VASILENKO TOLD THE GROUP OF ATTACHES THAT THE ARGENTINE NAVY APPROACHED THE FISHING VESSELS FROM THE HIGH SEAS TOWARD THE SHORE, THEREFORE HOW COULD THE SOVIET VESSELS HOPE TO EVADE CAPTURE? VASILENKO CLAIMS THAT THE ENTRIES IN THE SHIPS' LOG BOOKS WILL PROVE THAT THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE LIMIT WHEN CAPTURED.

2. ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ IN A PROTRACTED AND HIGHLY THEORETICAL CONVERSATION ABOUT LEGALLY SUFFICIENT PROOF OF A SHIP'S POSITION IN THE EVENT OF CAPTURE, VASILENKO CLAIMED THAT THE ONLY VALID PROOF WOULD BE THE POSITIONS LOGGED IN THE SHIP'S LOG BOOK. HE SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF DIFFERENCES IN CLAIMS, THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY THAT HAD SHIPS IN CUSTODY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION OF ACTUAL POSITION SINCE THERE IS NO INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY WITH JURISDICTION. VASILENKO ALSO TOLD THE GROUP THAT THE ALMOST 600 SOVIET PERSONNEL FROM THE SHIPS HAD BEEN GIVEN FREEDOM TO GO ASHORE AND SIGHT-SEE IN THE AREA OF PUERTO MADRYN.

COMMENT: ~~(C/NOFORN)~~ VASILENKO HAS BEEN TAKING A GOOD DEAL OF HEAT FROM HIS ATTACHE COLLEGUES AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT CAPTURES. HIS ATTITUDE AND REACTION HAS BEEN TO JOIN IN THE FUN. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE RECENTLY ASKED IF HE COULD PAY HIS ASSOCIATION DUES IN SLIGHTLY OLD FISH INSTEAD OF DOLLARS. IN A SERIOUS VAIN, THE VASILENKO STORY ABOUT THE CAPTURE

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 19, 2018*

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

CONFLICTS WITH THE ARGENTINE VERSION IN ALMOST ALL ASPECTS. VASILENKO APPEARED MORE WILLING TO DISCUSS DETAILS AT THIS MEETING THAN HE HAS IN THE PAST. [redacted] THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE JUST RECENTLY GOTTEN THEIR COLLECTIVE STORY TOGETHER AND ARE NOW TRYING TO GIVE IT EXPOSURE. THIS MSG COORD W/EMBASSY.

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

~~GDS DEC 83~~

BT

#0549

ANNOTES

TM JOE 117

NNNN

021849Z

49

DECLASSIFIED IN PART
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 19, 2018*